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Fifty-seventh session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 28 November 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET (France)

- Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council
- Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (Security Council resolution 70 (1949))

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As members will recall, the Trusteeship Council on 1 June this year decided, in conformity with the procedure adopted at previous sessions of the Council, to suspend its meetings and to meet in resumed session to consider the Council's draft report to the Security Council. This meeting has been convened to consider and, I hope, to adopt the draft report that has been transmitted to all members of the Council.

As members will note, the draft report consists of the report of the twentieth special session, held on 8 January 1990, and the report of the fifty-seventh regular session.

Members will recall that the Council at its 1681st meeting, on 1 June 1990, authorized the Secretariat, in consultation with the President and members of the Council, to prepare a report on the work of the twentieth special session for inclusion in the Council's next annual report to the Security Council on its work at its fifty-seventh session. In completing that report, the Secretariat followed the same procedure of previous years and has used the official verbatim records of the Council's meeting at the twentieth special session.

(The President)

Part I of the report of the fifty-seventh session is entitled "Organization and activities of the Trusteeship Council". In completing that part, the Secretariat also followed the same procedure adopted in previous years and has used the official verbatim records of the Council's meetings during the current session.

Council members will also note that Part II of the report contains the Council's conclusions and recommendations which were adopted by the Council at its 1,681st meeting, on 1 June 1990. Hence, we have already adopted Part II of our report.

Does any member wish to comment on the draft report before us?

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): I do not have any comments to make on the contents of the report, with which my delegation is perfectly happy and for which we shall vote in favour.

However, I wish to comment on a point of procedure. My delegation notes that the report is available only in English. As the Council is aware, the French delegation feels that the adoption of such texts should take place only if we have them translated into the working languages of the United Nations. I do not wish to delay the work of the Trusteeship Council this year; hence my delegation will not insist on this condition prior to the adoption of the report. I just wanted to draw the Council's attention and that of the Secretariat to this fact, and we hope that in subsequent sessions we shall have the working documents translated and available in the working languages of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I am sure that the delegation of France will appreciate that the President is, of course, also particularly sensitive to the point just raised by the French delegation. I believe that the matter has been understood by the Secretariat and that it will be taken into account next year.

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(The President)

Since there are no further comments, the Council will now proceed to take action on the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council which has been distributed to the members. May I take it that the Council is prepared to adopt the report without a vote?

The draft report was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I would kindly request the Secretariat to complete the report, in accordance with past practice, by indicating that the report has been adopted without a vote.

Ms. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America): It is a great pleasure for me to make the United States statement at the closing of the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Trusteeship Council. As the members of the Council all know, I am a newcomer to this body, having joined the United States Mission after the conclusion of the first Trusteeship Council session this spring. I have read the final report with care, however, and congratulate the Council on its rigorous examination of the issues relating to the United States trusteeship and to the political, social and economic development of Palau. It would not be an overstatement, I believe, to describe this session of the Trusteeship Council as one of the most productive and useful ever.

I wish to express my thanks in particular to the President of the Council this year, Mrs. Gazeau-Secret, for her effective leadership and efficient management of the Council's work. She was ably assisted by Ambassador Thomas Richardson, Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council, as well as the staffs of the French and British delegations. I also wish to thank the other two members of the Trusteeship Council, the Soviet Union and China, for their questions, comments and co-operation and for their useful contributions to the final report. Of course, the Trusteeship

(Ms. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

Council could not function without the unfailing support of the Secretariat staff, who manifest true devotion to the people of Palau and to the smooth operation of this body.

Since the February referendum in Palau on the Compact of Free Association, there has been discussion in the Territory of alternate strategies for concluding the process of self-determination. The United States wholeheartedly endorses this process in the hope that the Territory will soon choose to terminate its present trust status in favour of a permanent new status. Palau has demonstrated its ability to function as a democratic and economically viable entity. We will, of course, stand by the Territory in its final stage of development, and we look forward to the day when termination of the Trust Agreement is complete and the Trusteeship Council will have concluded its important work. It has been the sacred trust of the United States to assist Palau in its process of self-determination and the United States intends to meet its obligations until such time as the people of Palau speak finally on their wishes for the future.

Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom): I too wish to add my voice to that of my United States colleague in congratulating very warmly all the members of the Secretariat for the unfailing help they have given both my delegation and the Council in general. We are extremely thankful and grateful to them. I should also like to pay tribute to the United States delegation as administering Power of the Trusteeship Territory and, of course, to the Special Representative of Palau and his colleagues who came to talk to us earlier in our session and who were so generous in providing us with information on the state of the Territory.

I should also, above all, like to echo the thanks just made to you, Madam President, and to offer my warmest congratulations. I think you presided over our meetings, if I may say so, with great style and verve, and it has been an

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

unusually successful presidency and a very important period indeed in the Trusteeship Council's history, one of the most co-operative and constructive, I think, for many years. We are extremely grateful to you for the part you have played in that.

I think that we can all take hope, as we continue our work to achieve the objectives of the Trusteeship Council as set out in the United Nations Charter, and look forward to a very important and busy year ahead.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): First of all, like the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom I should like to express to you, Madam President, my delegation's congratulations on your skilful guidance of the fifty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council, which is a major reason we have had such a smooth discussion of the matters before us.

I should also like to express my delegation's satisfaction at the businesslike atmosphere and spirit of understanding that prevailed during the session. Although different approaches and different views were evident and were expressed during the course of our work, the efficient atmosphere that prevailed was a major contribution and helped every delegation to make its views known.

I should also like to express my gratitude to the Secretariat for the skilful way in which it prepared the materials for the session and for the effective way in which it carried out our instructions in preparing the report we have adopted today, in which we have very adequately described the course of the discussions that were held during the session.

As we entered this Chamber today we came upon a Second Committee draft resolution that was lying about, and I should like to remark on the fact that it has what appears to be more than a hundred sponsors, including all the permanent members of the Security Council and all the members of the Trusteeship Council. Such a sight is a true source of inspiration for many United Nations bodies, including our own, in their future endeavours.

Mr. JU Mengjia (China) (interpretation from Chinese): First, Madam President, I should like to associate myself with those who have spoken before me in thanking you for your able leadership and for the results we have achieved at this session. I should also like to thank the Secretariat staff for its important contribution.

(Mr. Ju Mengjia, China)

The Chinese delegation agrees with the report the Council has just adopted. We have just heard a statement by the representative of the United States, in which she said that there may be alternative strategies to be considered with regard to the question of Palau. We believe that that question is a very important one and that it is therefore necessary to have informal consultations among the States members of the Council. That could only be helpful in reaching a definitive solution to the problem, and we believe that such consultations would be in the interest of our future work.

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): I too should like to offer to you, Madam President, our congratulations on the manner in which you have presided over the work of this session of the Trusteeship Council and to extend to you the thanks of my delegation. Our thanks go also to Mr. Richardson, who served as Vice-President of the Council, as well as to the representatives of the United States delegation for their contributions. We should also like to thank the members of the Secretariat for the excellent work they performed, particularly in the preparation of the Council's report but also for their preparation of the entire session.

As previous speakers have remarked, this session of the Trusteeship Council was marked by a spirit of co-operation - which, indeed, has been shown in the adoption by consensus of our report to the Security Council - and my delegation feels and hopes that it will henceforth be possible for that spirit of co-operation to be extended and further emphasized in the Council's future work as well as in regard to the future of the Territory under trusteeship.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before adjourning this session, I should like to say a few words. As we are about to conclude the Council's fifty-seventh session I should like first of all to thank members for having agreed to hold today's meeting on a day and in a season that is especially busy for us all. I am also very grateful to you all for the co-operation I have encountered since you did me the honour of electing me President of the Council, and I should like to thank you for having so facilitated my task. The active and constructive participation of all members has certainly enabled the Council to discharge its work successfully.

The adoption of the Council's report is proof of this, and I congratulate us all on the major progress we have made this year in our work, progress that can only benefit the populations of the Trust Territory.

I thank delegations for the very kind words they addressed to me, and I once again hail the constructive spirit that has prevailed in our work, which today resulted in the adoption of our report without a vote. I wish to welcome the presence here of the head of the Council's delegation that went to Palau to supervise the 6 February 1990 plebiscite - Ambassador Amigues of the French delegation. That was an important mission in enabling us to evaluate the situation in the Trust Territory, and it successfully accomplished its task. I thank Ambassador Amigues on behalf of the Trusteeship Council.

I also want to thank the members of the United Nations specialized agencies; they are not present today, but their assiduous presence at our meetings has amply demonstrated their interest in our deliberations.

I want also, of course, to thank the members of the Secretariat, whose co-operation has been so useful to me. Indeed, what could a President do without

(The President)

the Secretariat? I should also like to mention the interpreters and translators and all the others who, from behind the scenes, contribute to the successful progress of our work. To them I express all my gratitude. I look forward to seeing you all at the next session of the Council.

I declare closed the fifty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.